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THE JOHNSTOWN DISASTER.

The Johnstown explosion, by which the lives of from 100 to 300 miners have suddenly been snuffed out, is probably the worst mining disaster in the history of the Pennsylvania coal fields. A lighted match, some careless act of the moment, has filled hundreds of homes with terror. Women wait despondently at the shaft for the decision in the awful lottery which is to determine whether they are wife or widow. It is a catastrophe of the kind always imminent, and as uncertain when it comes as the lightning stroke. The invented devices of a century now insure the miner a relative degree of safety, but they do not yet enable him to cope adequately with fire damp. This evil spirit of the mine is still ready to crush and rend at the first relaxation of vigi-

A disaster of this sort reveals unemotional heroism of a rare kind. There is the wife waiting stolidly for the verdict. There is the entombed husband with a scant allowance of air left him waiting for the rescuer and estimating the chances of escape as each breath diminishes their number. The memory is still fresh of the Tennessee miners similarly entombed writing endearing messages of exceeding pathos to their loved ones left behind. Their lingering death was agony which the luckler ones killed outright missed, but they left a legacy of love priceless to those who mourn them.

THE MAYOR'S OPEN TALKS.

The first of Mayor Low's open talks with the public on city affairs is so good as to whet the appetite for others which are to follow. It was a clear and well considered discussion of the excessive and needless taxation from which the city suffers as a result of bad financiering-a popular presentation of the sort of statistics which interest voters very intensely during the brief and acute period of campaign oratory and argument, but in which their interest speedily flags after election day.

Such a presentation on the weekly instalment plan during the administration's tenure of office of current problems in municipal government will serve the good purpose of making citizens well acquainted with these administrative problems and familiarizing them with the Mayor's confessed attitude thereon, so that on the approach of a mayoralty campaign the voter will be more competent to discuss such points than many of the public speakers who seek to enlighten him. He will have profited greatly by the weekly confidential talk with the Mayor himself.

POLICEMEN'S FRIENDS AT COURT.

In yesterday's trials of policemen those officers who counted confidently on the efficacy of a "pull" to let 3 them down easy were disappointed. Patrolmen who is taking a post-graduate course in Enghad "sent a friend" to Deputy Commissioner Thurston to ease matters found themselves mulcted in fines of double severity. In explanation of this original course of procedure Col. Thurston said:

There have been a lot of people coming to me cemen are up on trial to tell me what good men they are. They also call me up on the telephone, and won't let go till they tell me what they want to say. So I have made It a rule that when policemen send their friends to me this way, and I find when I try the case that they are guilty, I make the fine just double.

If consistently adhered to this practice will work an improvement of police discipline. It comes rather hard on the particular officers who feel the first force of the innovation, but it is unquestionably "for the good of the service" in indicating to the members of the force that they will be dealt with in accordance with their merits, regardless of political influence.

AN EVENING WORLD IDEA.

In discussing the growing frequency of accidents caused by horses which have been frightened by automobiles, The Evening World some months ago took occaequines where they might be familiarized with the puffing terrors and granted a certificate of proficiency before being permitted to draw a vehicle on a public highway.

This suggestion has been adopted in good faith by the Board of Governors of the Automobile Club of America. At their session yesterday they drafted a circular létter urging members to devote an hour or more each day in ROSEBERY, LORD-is said to have public squares to accustoming horses to the sight and sound of automobiles. The President of the board, Mr. Albert R. Shattuck, said that in three lessons of half an hour each "in a school he had established at Lenox" he had broken two green colts to the automobile so that he could drive his machine past them at thirty miles an hour without frightening them.

It is a good idea, and The Evening World, modestly assuming the credit for it which is its due, hopes it will be pushed along.

ANOTHER SHY AT SHAKESPEARE.

William Norman Guthrie, "Director of the Cincinnati Conference of Art and Literature," put himself on record at the University of Chicago yesterday as hoping that "the human race will so improve in the near future in its tastes and accomplishments that Shakespeare will be held to be unfit to read." Perhaps it could be proved to the professor's enlightenment that his "near future" is now here. Did not Williams College give Clyde Fitch an honorary degree at its recent commencement? It was not a D. D., though from the moral nature of Mr. Fitch's dramas it might have been. And are not the plays of Pinero and Henry Arthur Jones current literature where Shakespeare is forgotten or

It is to be feared that the professor is belated in his discovery. Beside the finished creations of these dramatic artists the Bard of Avon's work is that of the unpractised amateur, so much mightier is the typewriter than the quill pen. Particularly is the rude and vigorous frankness of the Shakespearean treatment of love complications stable-mannered by comparison with the parlor deportment of Mr. Pinero's people. It offends the delicate sensibilities of the Guthries everywhere and is with the German band. I sympathize with telling him what he thought. If the a good-looking woman. delicate sensibilities of the Guthries everywhere and is

western Did His Duty.—Park Policeman Werdann are with the man with his fiddle in the organization. A would be disqualified back yard who plays the ragtime? I for doing such a thing. ple in Central Park and frightening the young woman hysterics. Magistrate Hogan fined Hadeiberg and icterized his conduct as dishonorable. A transposion of names in the news report made Werdann the ofand he was referred to editorially as such. The me World regrets that it should have thus inadthe officer's very creditable act appear





The Funny Side of Life.

JOKES OF OUR OWN

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING. Although for flattery most people care It is a thing of which we sometimes

Just now we could do with much less From Sol and G. Humidity, esquire.

A GOOD REASON.

"Why have they dated the coronation for next month?" "So that it will lose none of its Augus splendor by further delay."

"The universe owes me a living." "What will you do if it refuses pay

BEYOND THE LAW. "There's one case where I wish the

anti-Soorching law could be enforced." "Against whom?" "Against old Sol."

PLENTY OF AIR.

"Was it cool at the ball game?" "Well, rather. Two thousand fans were working for all they were worth."

BORROWED JOKES.

CARELESS DESIGN.

Blobbs-That girl seems awfully care She can never keep her shoe strings tied.

Slobbs-That isn't carelessness, you Can't you see what a pretty chump! ankle she has?-Philadelphia Record.

ANXIOUS TO LEARN.

"And so you have no swear words is your language, Mr. Omokura?" "No, madam," the Japanese traveller

"But, of course, you can think custhoughts I suppose, can't you?"--Chicago Record Herald.

AS USUAL.

Askit-Who was that girl you intra duced me to who uses so much slang? Tellit-Oh, she's a friend of mine wh

UNTRAMMELLED MAN.

Mrs. Dash-Don't you ever visit in Mrs. Rash-Oh, no. David always wants to go where he can pay board

and act disagreeable when he feels like **4644566686866666666**66666666

SOMEBODIES.

BOTHA, GEN .- 4s coming here with De Wet and Delarey to raise money for Boers ruined by the war. Oom Paul Kruger will not join the party. CARNEGIE, ANDREW-will receive next weak the freedom of the city of

St. Andrew's, Scotland. The town, oddenough, was not named for him. TAIRFAX, LORD A. K .- twelfth Baron Cameron, was the only American ma of title invited to the coronation. He

KAISER WILHELM-can live fortably on his orders of decorations if he ever loses his job of Kaisering. These medals are worth \$225,000 and

number over 200. MODERWELL, E. C .- of Chicago, received the largest pension awarded to any old soldier during the late Billion-Dollar Session of Congress.

written a novel, but fears to publish it at present lest it might injure his

YESTERDAY AND TO-DAY

Yesterday, God's day, I spent n holy thought, in calm content. amidst the ferns and grasses sweet Where, here and there, about my feet I found this little flower

I'd longed for such a day to be-When ev'ry vine and bush and tree Should dawn its robe of verdant hue; Then I should gather, dear, for you This little purple flower.

And now my joy has passed away 'Tis but a memory to-day-In that these violets I send

As with all joys, their reign is short No pleasure that hath e'er been sought.

Did permanently satiate-We're happy but an hour. -Alice G. Kelley, in Boston Glabe kisses are the sweetest. Miss Fly-How am I to know? } than any fellah could do it a purpose.

NOTHING DOING.

Raycled Ransom-Please, sir, 1'm

Pompous Citizen-Well, do I look

TOO WILLING.

on me uppers.

ike a shoemaker?

A DIFFERENCE.



COULDN'T HELP IT.



Jefferson-What makes you think

Rastus-Why, when the niggah's so stage-scared the bones rattle faster

RECKLESS BEHAVIOR OF A COWBOY.



"Dance!" yells the Terror of the Trusts, "Or I'll shoot ye up some more! Dance! Put a yard of daylight 'twixt your carcass and the floor!' There's little field for breaking free when Teddy's out for fun; And Anti-Trust the Trusts will get from the Man Behind the Gun



sydney-What is a sketch artist Mamma-A man who makes pic-Sydney-Well, does the roof-garden sketch artist make the living pic-



RISKY.



Farmer-Hi there! Look You'll shoot me! Amateur Hunter-I'm not aimin, Farmer-That's what worries me.

AN IMMUNE



"I wish I was going on that Pears relief expedition

"There no idiot could get a chance to ask, 'Is it hot enough for you?' *****************

THE STRANGE ROYAL BARGES OF A QUEEN.

ODDITY CORNER.



The African King Lewanika's Queen travels on the Zambesi in these strange barges, one of which is surmounted with an effigy of an elephant and the other with what is apparently an antelope.

THE LIGHTEST OF WOODS.

Deep in the bogs and swamps southeastern Missouri, in Dunklin and Butler Counties, where the land is neve dry and water from one to six feet dec stands perpetually in the forests, ther grows a rare and curious tree. The cork tree. Science has given it a longe name, says the Kansas City Star, th Leitneria floridana; floridana because was first discovered in Florida along the coast from which it has long sin been washed away. It reaches a heigh of fifteen to twenty feet and a diameter of two to five inches. It is the lighter tree in weight that grows. Its wood weighs less than cork. It is so light that the natives use it to make floats for their fishing nets. And yet its wood though so spongy that one may easily sink one's finger nail into it, is fa tougher than cork. In comparison with the corkwood, which is the lightest wood with its specific gravity of .207 known, the black ironwood of Florida whose specific gravity is .1302.

MOUNTING A WHEEL. A careful bicyclist learns to mount from either side of the wheel, since the emergency may arise at any moment. the London Chronicle. One would think that the horsemen would be equally careful to provide for possibilities, and accustom himself to mounting in differently from the off side and the near side. But if he were to venture to wrong side-in a hotel stable yard, the hostler would probably demand the price of a gailon as the statutory fine, and the herse would collapse with surprise What is the meaning of this convention It appears in odd places. Not only does the trick horse in the circus canter from right to left, but the after-dinner win passes the same way. "The way of the

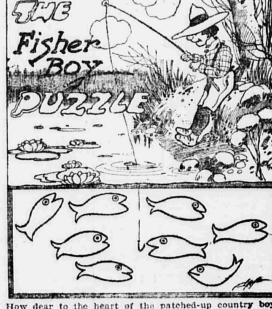
A KNOWING SHEPHERD. some sheep, when he met a man wh said to him: "Good morning, friend with your score." "No," said the shep herd. "I have not a score, but if I had as many more, half as many more and two sheep and a half I should have just a score." How many sheep had he? He had 7 sheep; as many more 7 half as many more 31/2, and 21/2, making

A NATURAL QUESTION.

Little Margaret went with her moth to the dock to see her auntie set sail of the big ocean steamship. Margaret had never seen the big steamer before and she watched everything with great in-terest. The monster of a boat slipped slowly away from the dock and Margaret waved her hand frantically with the rest. Then she tooked up at her mother very solemnly.
"Mamma," she questioned, "does the

water follow that ship all the way over to England?

CAN YOU STRING FISH?



How dear to the heart of the patched-up country boy bent-hook fishing outfit. It seems to be an understood thing that with this equipment he can do more hustling business in the fishing line than an old-timer at the business, who has a patent reel and years of experience. The small chap represented in the picture has an especially good catch after an evening's tour. During this time he catches eight fish; they are given in white outline below the main picture. Are mount on the right side-which is the you an expert at stringing fish? Arrange these fish on the black line so that they will exactly fill the length of the ine, not over or less than its length. They must touch each other at some point of their bodies.

SOME OF BRITAIN'S SOLDIERS



ninth Baluchistan Regiment, now in London.

Punjab Native Infantry; representative troops that went to London

· CURIOUS INDUSTRIES.

Salt mining constitutes one of the staple industries of Roumania. There are four mines in all. The mineral is mined in three of the mines by convicts. In all there are about 1,000 convicts at work in the three mines, says the Chicago news. The laborers are not provided with any mechanical apparatus whatever, the whole of the work being performed by hand, each convict having to quarry a specific quantity of sait daily. The mines are controlled by a state official, whose position is similar to that of governor of a prison. The mine contains a chapel and numerous other apartments, all cut out of the salt by the prisoners.

The growing of pampas plumes has become an important in-dustry in California. When they are cut a day or so suffices the plumes, and at such times the ground appears, from the hills, to be covered with snow. After the drying for a joke I don't see why B should get a visit last February to Boston and boys walk miles every day carrying the plumes are taken to the curing house and then finally mad, but if he meant it so as not to stopping at one of the principal hotels parcels and receiving a small salary. sorted into various grades by expert hands. The finest and most beautiful plumes are about thirty-six inches long, and they are packed for shipment either in packages of 2,000 or in large cases, the prices ranging from \$200 to \$50 a thousand, according to the demand. In all, California produces about 2,500,000 plumes a year, which are sent all over this country

POPE'S HOUSEKEEPER.

Leo XIII. employs at the Vatican quite a little army of chambermaids and seamstresses. The latter have to take aside to dry. are of the Pope's wardrobe. The clothes of His Holiness are paper will be invisible. Then light a nandle them with the necessary care, and, therefore, women were substituted for the valets. Like most people the Pope that his little weakness—a love for sweetmeats. This is well known in Ifair, and at his jubilee a motherly peasant woman gave expression to her affection for him by a present of an another the saltpeter will catch fire immediately and burn along the line draws with anormous pile of sweets, wrapped in a huge colored cotton pocket handkaronies.

FIRE DRAWINGS.



blank sheet of white paper, touch i with a glowing match, and in a short time we have a figure burnt out of the paper. The preparation of such fire-drawing sheets is simple, and every-body with a little talent for drawing can produce them at small expense. Dissolve a tablespoonful of saltpeter in a tumbler of water, and draw with the help of a pointed brush an outline ngure on thin white paper and put it The drawing on the match, blow it out immediately, and touch a certain point in the outline

boys? Some firms make their

To the Editor of The Evening World: I read that Magiatrate Cornell comsuppose that is the real thing for many and sounds more homelike,

LOVER OF GERMAN BANDS. Says B Was Right.

To the Ednor of The Evening World: In answer to H. H. La's letter: "A row

the worthy Magistrate over the insult game was played under the rules of the of the German bands to his refined A. A. U. (which I don't think it was). musical ears. But what is the matter or, in fact, any other rules of some

POOL PLAYER.

To the Editor of The Evening World: paper this evening in regard to the conover a game of pool." I would say that the first an apology was due from A. Pushing the ball lipts a pocket w. nout a cue is not allowed and the effender should same experience. Now, in regard to

No License Is Needed.

HARRY M'NAUGHTON. A Heavy Burden. To the Editor of The Evening World:

I noticed a letter from a "Distracted While walking along Broadway I noticed a boy carrying a very heavy bundle weighing about 12 pounds. The boy is a friend of mine, and I went over to him and asked where he working, but he only easil: "On Fourth street." Now, is this not a shame for a firm to make homes and wagons out Mother." saying that her son is a disgrace to the family for figating to pre-

An Objection.

To the Editor of The Evening World: In regard to the statement made by

To the Editor of The Evening World:

A says that no license is required in who get seats on cars should pay, Miss S., who suggests that only those order to marry in New York State. B should think if that law was passed says a license .s needed. Which is right? most of the people would rather stand up than pay the fare. F. R. A. B. Be Proud of Him, To the Editor of The Evening World:

vent big boys from bullying smaller ones. Instead of looking at it as a dis-grace I should look at it as an honor to